IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.:

09/723,077

Filing Date:

November 27, 2000

Applicant:

Daisuke Suzuki

Group Art Unit:

1746

Examiner:

Monique M. Wills

Title:

GASKET ASSEMBLY

Attorney Docket:

00-0010

Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

I. <u>LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS, AND OTHER INFORMATION</u>

The patents, publications and other information requested to be considered by the Office (except unpublished U.S. patent applications) are listed on Form 1449 attached hereto.

II. COPIES

A. Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S. patent application publication and U.S. and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; (iii) for each cited pending U.S. application, the application specification including the claims, and any drawing of the application which caused it to be listed including the claims directed to that portion; and (iv) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.

B. Any patents, publications or other information which are listed on Form 1449 or on the copies of PTO-892, but which are not enclosed herewith, were

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12/11/2003 HALI11 00000086 09723077

previously cited by or submitted to the PTO in one of the following applications which has been relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120:

U.S. Serial Number

U.S. Filing Date

	C. Because the present application was/is being filed after June 30, 2003, no copies of the U.S. patents or U.S. patent application publications which are listed on the attached Form 1449 are enclosed pursuant to the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i). Any foreign patent documents or non-patent literature listed on the attached Form 1449 are enclosed herewith.
	D. This is a PCT application in the entry of the National Phase in the United States. A copy of the International Search Report is attached for the Examiner's information. The documents listed on the International Search Report are listed on the attached Form 1449 for consideration by the Examiner and for listing on any patent resulting from this application. Since the International Search report was from the US, EPO, or JPO search authorities, copies of these references should have been supplied to the USPTO under the trilateral agreement and are believed to be in the file of the above-identified application. (MPEP 1893.03(g).)
III.	CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE (check at least one box)
	A. Except as may be indicated below in (B), all of the patents, publications or other information are in the English language (concise explanation not required).
	B. A concise explanation of the relevance of each patent, publication or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)):
	1. See the attached foreign patent office communication from a counterpart foreign application:
	2. English translations are provided:
	3. Other:
	C. The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration.

IV.	CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)					
	A. The Examiner is advised that the following co-pending application(s) contain(s) subject matter that may be related to the present application. By bringing this(these) application(s) to the Examiner's attention, Applicant(s) does (do) not waive the confidentiality provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 122.					
	<u>Serial No.</u>	Filing Date	Art Unit			
V.	THIS IDS IS BEING FI	LED UNDER				
	A.					
	1. within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d) (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1)). No fee or certification is required.					
	2. within thre forth in § 1.491 if fee or certification	in an international applica	entry of the national stage as set ation (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(2)). No			
		mailing of a first Office fee or certification is requ	Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § ired.			
	4. Defore the for continued ex is required.	mailing of a first Office a amination under 37 C.F.	Action after the filing of a request R. § 1.114. No fee or certification			
	B. 🔀 37 C.F.R. § 1.97((c): (check <u>only</u> one box)				
	before the mailir 1.113, a Notice otherwise closes	of Allowance under 37	al Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § C.F.R. § 1.311, or an action that			
	1. X No certification by 37 C.F.R. § 1	ation; therefore, a fee in t .17(p).	the amount of \$180.00 is required			
	2. See the ce	rtification below. No fee	is required.			
	C. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97	(d):				

after the mailing date of either a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, yet on or before payment of the issue fee. 1. See the certification below. A fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p). CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e): (check only one box) The undersigned hereby certifies that: A. each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1)). See further statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.704(d) below in section VII. if applicable; or B. \square no item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2)). C. some of the items of information were first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office. As to this information, the undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby certifies that no item of this remaining information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. VII. STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.704(d) The undersigned hereby states that: each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this IDS.

VI.

VI. PAYMENT OF FEES (check only one box)

A. A check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed for the above identified fee.

B. Please charge Deposit Account No. 08-0750 in the amount of \$180.00 for the above-indicated fee. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

The above references are being cited only in the interest of candor and without any admission that they constitute statutory prior art, contain matter which anticipates the invention, or which would render the same obvious, either singly or in combination, to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Furthermore, this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made.

If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule (with a petition if necessary) and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.

Bv:

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 2 Decarder 2003

David L. Suter, Reg. No. 30,692

Ronald W. Wangerow, Reg. No. 29,597

Freudenberg-NOK General Partnership Intellectual Property Department 47690 East Anchor Court Plymouth, MI 48170 (734) 354-5445

FORM HDP-1449 (Based on Form PTO-1449)

PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. SERIAL NO.		
00-0010 09/723,077		
APPLICANT		
Daisuke Suzuki		
FILING DATE	GROUP	
11/27/00	1746	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Name	Class/ Subclass	(If appropriate) Filing Date
1.		3,994,764	11/30/1976	Leon E. Wolinski		
2.		5,464,700	11/7/1995	Steck et al.		
3.		6,057,054	5/2/2000	Barton et al.		
4.		6,080,503	6/27/00	Schmid et al.		

FORE	IGN PATEN	IT DOCUMENTS	3				
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Country	Class/ Subclass	Translatio	n No
1.							

OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)				
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	3		
1.				

Examiner:	Date Considered: